

BROOKLINE COUNCIL ON AGING
Minutes of the
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Wednesday, June 12, 2013

The Brookline Council on Aging (COA) meeting was held at the Senior Center on Wednesday, June 12, 2013, at 1:00 pm.

Present were:

- Board members: Peter Ames, Doris Toby Axelrod, Phyllis Bram, Ruthann Dobek, Phil Fullerton, Jean Kramer, Celia Lascarides, Claire Lurie, John Mulhane, Yolanda Rodriguez, Agnes Rogers, Miriam Sargon, and William Wong
- Staff: Dotty Bell, Judith Gimple, Susan Kanian-Andriole, Freddi Langenthal, Olga Sliwa, Julie Washburn, and Karin Wannamaker
- Others: Virginia Chen, Jessica Holloway, Elaine Langenthal, Sherry Lee, and Pat Probst

Agnes Rogers called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm and asked for the minutes of the May meeting to be approved. They were amended at Barbara Scotto's request, and approved as amended.

Mrs. Rogers then introduced the guest speaker—Patricia Probst, Home Care Manager of Jewish Family & Children's Services (JF&CS) who spoke on the JF&CS Reassurance Respite Care Project

The Reassurance Respite Care Project is provided under a grant from the Massachusetts Lifespan Respite Coalition. It must be used by September 30, 2013, but it might continue past this deadline.

- JF&CS Home Care, in collaboration with the Brookline Council on Aging (COA) and Springwell, will provide up to 18 hours of in-home respite care for 25 caregivers/families at no charge to them.
- The goal is to increase the knowledge and experience of the value of respite care in giving caregivers an opportunity to address their own needs and to develop a plan to continue informal and/or formal respite care beyond what his small grant allows.
- The project provides an introductory respite experience for families with Alzheimer's and other dementias, with particular focus on Russian-

speaking seniors (because JF&CS has over 100 Russian-speaking workers. However, JF&CS Home Care can cope with Polish, Spanish, French, Creole, and many other languages—29 languages in all). The project will focus on at-risk Brookline caregiver/families that desperately need respite care, but who, because of the language barriers and/or a reluctance to leave a loved one with a formal caregiver, have not benefited from the respite experience.

- Once participants are identified, each caregiver/care recipient will receive an in-home nursing assessment to develop a short-term respite plan that includes services that can be provided by a homemaker or personal care attendant.
- Each caregiver/care recipient can use the 18 hours as they wish within certain parameters: a minimum of 3 hours at a time; a maximum of 8 hours at a time; no overnights.

For more information, call Pat Probst, Home Care Manager at 617-227-6641 or e-mail her at pprobst@jfcsboston.org. Each caregiver who applies will be asked to fill out a brief questionnaire that asks minimal information for demographic purposes.

To arrange services, Call May Batchelder, Intake Coordinator, at 617-224-4125.

The program described above is for Brookline residents only, but JF&CS Home Care services the whole Metro Boston/Eastern MA area. They also do regular home care. Check them for hourly rates.

Agnes Rogers thanked Pat Probst for her presentation and the group applauded the presentation.

Then Agnes recognized Lynn A. Schuster, Clinical Liaison for the Greater Medford VNA (GMVNA) & Additional Care Private Home Care Services who reminded the audience about the Senior Elite Care Management service that CMVNA offers to all seniors. Senior Elite's goal is to help seniors navigate the health care maze. It is free and easy to join—just call 855-464-6862 (855-GO-GMVNA) to enroll.

Once you have enrolled, you will receive a membership card. Then if you or a loved one has any questions about your care, a call to Senior Elite will be give you access to advise on resources and services available to you for your special needs from a Senior Elite Care Manager.

GMVNA is a 117-year-old organization that is there to help you no matter where you are, what hospital, doctor, or facility you may receive services from.

Agnes thanked Lynn. There was a round of applause, and then Agnes called for Committee reports.

Budget report—Ruthann Dobek

The budget passed. Ruthann was happy to report that the budget allowed for an increase to 30 hours for the replacement social worker for Elaine Yanowitz's job. There was also an increase in the cleaning budget. Ruthann thanked both the selectmen and the town meeting for these important increases in the budget.

Nominating committee report—Ruthann Dobek

Judith and Herman Chernoff are leaving Brookline (going to Springhouse with their big geriatric dog by special consent) so Judith's position will be open.

The Nominating committee will meet in August. Please let Ruthann know if you have people to nominate.

Springwell report—Helen Lew

No report

Selectmen Report—Nancy Daly

No Selectmen's report.

Director's report—Ruthann Dobek

Come to the coffee hour at 2:00 pm to say "farewell and happy retirement to Ron Gallagher, our erstwhile Van driver.

There has been much concern and thought given to what to do at Ron's retirement to fill in the gap until a new Van driver can be hired and start working. Ruthann has issued the following special announcement to people who want to use the Van:

"Starting July 8, 2013, Van riders who participate in the BETS program will have an opportunity to obtain four (4) extra books of tickets *at no cost* to use while we are interviewing van drivers. In order to get the coupons, people must be in good standing in the BETS program and have filled out the van user forms (obtainable at the Senior Center office on the 2nd floor). We hope that this will cover July, but we will examine the issue closer to the end of July. If people are not currently registered with BETS but are eligible after completing the application process, they can receive the four books. The BETs office will distribute the coupons, but all questions about this special program should be directed to Ruthann Dobek."

See Attachment A: Van User Form.

The position as HELP counselor will be available at the end of July.

And we are also looking for someone to fill the Volunteer coordinator position – an 18-hour-a week position.

Don't miss the Elks BBQ on Saturday, June 15.

Exciting news: Starting in July there will be more evening and weekend events at the Senior Center as our Multi-Service nonprofit organization has found funding for more hours and as our old friend Charlotte Millman has agreed to help with programs by being on hand on site for them.

The Autumn Benefit this year will be on October 23 and will focus on the renovations to the Senior Center that will start this autumn.

We are looking for a volunteer to help update the web page. If you are interested or know someone who is interested, contact Ruthann.

Tax work-off for the new fiscal year will begin July 1 (the beginning of our fiscal year). There are 30 slots this year (expanded from 25 last year). For 125 hours of volunteer work contributed to the Town, eligible Brookline homeowners will get a \$1000 deduction on their property taxes.

And this year for the first time, Frank Caro and the Livable Communities Committee of BrooklineCAN has worked with the COA to finalize a warrant for the Autumn Town Meeting to make this program available to eligible low-income Brookline renters so that they will get a stipend in exchange for 125 hours of volunteer work for the Town.

We note with sadness that J.E. Pierce Apothecary has been sold and closed. However, the sale was to CVS and they will continue to honor the prescriptions and deliveries through their 1332 Beacon Street store (that's the one on the corner of Beacon and Harvard). Thanks to Phyllis Bram for providing this information.

Please remember to let us know if you have any trouble with any Brookline taxis accepting BETS tickets, making short trips, or accepting charge cards. They are required to provide these services to BETS ticket holders, and should be reported to the Senior Center—Ruthann or a staff social worker—if they do not do it. Hazara Cab has recently had its license pulled for failure to provide services.

Have a happy summer. Remember that the COA board will be on vacation in July and August and that the Nominating Committee will meet the 2nd Wednesday in August.

There being no additional old or new business, Agnes Rogers called for a motion to adjourn. It was moved, seconded, and approved.

The next COA meeting will be on Wednesday, September 11, at 1:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Gimple

Brookline Senior Center Van User Registration Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Are you a ☐ volunteer ☐ lunch participant
☐ program participant

What are the "regular" days and times that you
generally use the van?

Are you eligible for BETS (discount taxi coupons)? _____

BETS eligibility: An individual must be a Brookline resident, age 60 years or older and your income cannot exceed \$45,500 for an individual or \$52,000 for a couple. First time purchasers or their representatives must apply at the BETS office with proof of income, but subsequent purchases can be made by mail. Your income must be re-certified each year. Contact the BETS office at 617-730-2740 for more information.

PLEASE RETURN TO COUNCIL ON AGING OFFICES (2nd floor). THANK YOU!